

HISTORIANS AND POLITICS

Panel of the Conference *Democracy and Human Rights in Multiethnic Societies*

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General Informations:

The Sixth International Seminar is organized in co-operation with the Department of Comparative Politics and the Rokkan Centre, Univ. of Bergen, Norway, and supported by the Project *The Politics of Democratic and Welfare Development in South Eastern Europe: a Network for Research and Education*, backed by the Center for International University Cooperation and the Norwegian Research Council, Oslo.

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Place: Cultural House, Konjic, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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Transport and accommodation information is available at the Institute's web site: <http://www.democracy-konjic.org> or http://www.bosnet.org/democracy_institute/.

The purpose of the theme is to consolidate the researchers' efforts on studies of the role and place occupied by the historians in the political and ideological process in Eastern European countries, the Balkans and CIS in the late 20th and early 21st century. Among many peculiarities existing in the regional sociopolitical life one can note how often the academic community has performed a lot of ideas which later became a center of public discourse. A special and in many cases dramatic role was attained by professional historians when they felt a urgent public need in their earlier ostensibly pure academic explorations. First of all it concerns the period of the disintegration of the Communist system and bringing into life of new independent states. Thus history as a science has met a new challenge producing a contradictory and very sensible choice to those engaged in academically based researches. On the one hand, they had to work on historical studies and to secure scientific approaches to the events, facts and sources. But on the another hand, the situation and especially public feelings demanded a so called historical background for newly adopted national state independence and processes accompanied this rather painful development. Political events in the Eastern European countries, to say nothing of the Balkans and of the ex-USSR, seriously influenced historians and resulted in bringing into life different official and semiofficial conceptions determined to serve political goals of the ruling circuses or different political forces which are fighting against in other in some ways.

Among the problems to be broached at the sessions there will be likely those representing common interest and including the most important mainstreams in the correlation process between political and scientific elements in the role the historians' community played in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The suggested topics for discussions may embrace the following sets of flash-points:

1. Official and semiofficial ideological doctrines in the Eastern European countries, Balkans and CIS and participation of historians in dwelling or in opposing to them;
2. Political correctness and historic accuracy as the elements of historical studies in the Eastern European countries, Balkans and CIS;
3. Perspectives and obstacles of the »politically minded« historical studies including their role in producing of so called newly assessed national history.

In case of the participants' concession the results of the discussion could be published in form of a collection of articles.